

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 27, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area Commercial Fisheries
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STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Preseason forecasts were for 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock spring Chinook.
- The Bonneville Dam count through April 26th totals 19,863 adult fish and 57 jacks.
- Based on the recent 5-year average, 51% of the run has passed by April 26th. Since 1970 the latest timed run occurred in 1996. Passage for the 1996 run was 22% complete by April 26th and peaked on May 6th.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on April 26 to examine the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC reports the run will most likely not meet the pre-season forecast, and is tracking consistent with a late-timed run.
- The Willamette Falls spring Chinook count through April 21st totals 1,274 adult fish. Based on the recent 5-year average, 8% of the run has passed by April 21st. Willamette spring Chinook run-sizes are updated in late May.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Flows during April 19-25 have ranged from 129 to 176 kcfs and averaged 143 kcfs, which is 57% of the 10-year average. The 10-year average ranges from 238-275 kcfs for an average of 251 kcfs for the same weekly time frame. Flow on April 25th was 129 kcfs but increased to 180 kcfs on April 26th.
- River temperatures recorded at Bonneville Dam during April 19-25 averaged 50° F, which is near the 10-year average of 51° F for the same time frame.

SPRING CHINOOK FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Combined landings for both the winter commercial sturgeon and salmon seasons include 5,364 Chinook and 543 white sturgeon. Upriver spring Chinook impacts are estimated at 0.279% of the preseason forecast or 47% of the 0.6% management guideline).

Select Area Commercial Fishery

- Landings for the winter Select Area commercial season includes 190 spring Chinook and 9 white sturgeon. Upriver spring chinook impacts are estimated at 0.004% of the preseason forecast or 3.9% of the 0.1% Select Area impact guideline.
- Spring season fishing periods scheduled for April 21 and April 25 in Youngs Bay, Deep River, and Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas were rescinded at the April 19, 2005 Compact Hearing.

- Select Areas commercial fishing is scheduled to resume April 28th in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River.

Non-Indian Recreational Fisheries

Columbia River

- The mainstem Columbia River closed to salmon, steelhead and shad angling effective April 21st from Buoy 10 to McNary dam, including concurrent waters of Select Areas.
- Mainstem recreational fisheries resulted in an estimated 108,000 angler trips with approximately 10,200 kept and 2,900 released spring chinook. Of the Chinook handled, 65% were of upriver origin. Impacts to upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 0.334% of the preseason forecast or 42% of the 0.79% management guideline.
- The catch rate for boat anglers during April 2005 was 0.46 fish/boat compared to 0.71, 0.48, 0.42, and 0.62 during the previous four years.
- Sport anglers between Bonneville and McNary Dams have completed 162 angler trips through April 17th resulting in 35 kept and 41 released spring chinook. Impacts are estimated to be 0.003% of the preseason forecast or 3.0% of the 0.1% management guideline.

Lower Willamette River

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Catch rates during the past two weeks have remained stable at about one kept Chinook for every 4.3-4.5 boats.

Other Columbia River Tributaries

- Washington tributaries below Bonneville Dam are tracking at or above expected levels. Last week, catch rates for boat anglers were one Chinook for five anglers on the Lewis River, one Chinook for six anglers on the Kalama, and one Chinook for eight anglers on the Cowlitz River.
- Returns to the Cowlitz Hatchery continue to be strong, with 600 spring Chinook and 7 jacks returning last week alone. Hatchery specialists are reporting about 200 spring Chinook returning daily. A total of 12,700 spring Chinook are expected to return to the Cowlitz River in 2005. Based on a 5-yr average (1999-2003) about 4% of the fish have returned to the hatchery by May 1st.
- Washington tributaries above Bonneville Dam are experiencing catch and effort increases. Last week catch rates for boat anglers were one Chinook for seven anglers on the Wind River and one Chinook for nine anglers at Drano Lake. White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers are also reporting spring Chinook catch. In addition, 12 Chinook were reported in the Shippard Falls trap on Saturday April 23rd and 2 Chinook have been reported in the Klickitat River trap.

Combined Fishery Impacts

- Impacts based on the pre-season forecast include 0.283% for the commercial fisheries (mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas) and 0.337% for the recreational fisheries for a total of 0.620%, or 31% of the 2.00% limit.

- Run size reductions inflate impact rates for completed and planned fisheries. A summary of cumulative non-Indian fishery impacts at various run sizes are provided in the following table:

Actual Impacts	Run Size^a							
	125,000		100,000		82,000		81,999	
	To date	Remaining	To date	Remaining	To date	Remaining	To date	Remaining
Commercial								
Mainstem commercial	0.569	0.031	0.711	0.0	0.867	0.0	1.157	0.0
Select Area commercial	0.008	0.092	0.010	0.079	0.012	0.0	0.016	0.0
Commercial shad/buffer	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Commercial	0.577	0.223	0.721	0.079	0.880	0.0	1.173	0.0
% of Guideline (0.8%)^a	72%	28%	90%	10%	110%	0%	195%	0%
Recreational								
Below BO sport	0.679	0.111	0.849	0.000	1.035	0.0	1.380	0.0
LCR STH (May 15-Jun 15)	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.0
BO to McNary Dam sport	0.006	0.094	0.007	0.093	0.009	0.091	0.0	0.0
SR sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.0	0.200	0.0	0.200	0.0	0.055	0.0	0.0
Sport Buffer	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.041	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Recreational	0.685	0.515	0.856	0.344	1.044	0.156	1.380	0.0
% of Guideline (1.2%)^a	57%	43%	71%	29%	87%	13%	153%	0%
Total non-Indian Impacts	1.262	0.738	1.577	0.423	1.924	0.076	2.553	0.0
% of Guideline (2.0%)^a	63%	37%	79%	21%	96%	4%	170%	0%
^a Non-indian impact rate decreases to 1.5% of upriver run at run sizes less than 82,000								

FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Select Area Commercial Fisheries Recommendation
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to scheduled Select Area spring fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescind fishing periods previously adopted for April 28-29 and May 2-3 in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River Select Area fishing sites.

- ✓ The previously adopted fishing periods for April 28-May 3 would likely result in low (<30 fish) impacts to upriver spring Chinook. Modification of the proposed fishing periods during the same timeframe would reduce harvest to ≤17 upriver spring chinook. Due to current uncertainty regarding the status of the upriver run, the risk associated with either of these options may not be acceptable. Additional fishing periods will likely be contingent on continued improvements in passage at Bonneville Dam or a very small probability of any upriver impact.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Tuesday May 3rd, 2005 at 10:00 AM by telephone.